VI. *An Extract of a Letter from* James Logan, *Eſq; to Sir* Hans Sloane, *Bart. R. S. Pr. concerning the crooked and angular Appearance of the* Streaks, *or* Darts *of* Light'ning *in Thunder-Storms.*

Philadelphia, Sept. 20, 1735.

I Shall crave thy Indulgence further to add, that looking into the Second Volume of that ingenious Gentleman *Stephen Hales*'s Staticks, of which I have lately happened to have a curſory View, I obſerved him to mention that Phænomenon of the Streaks or Darts of Light'ning in Thunder-Storms appearing crooked and angular (I do not remember his Words) as a thing not yet accounted for; and therefore he gueſſed at a Solution of it*.

The Clouds are generally diſtinct Collections of Vapours like Fleeces, and therefore the Rays of Light thro' them muſt paſs thro' very different Denſities, and accordingly ſuffer very great Refractions: From thence therefore, undoubtedly, that Appearance muſt ariſe. For it is moſt highly abſurd to imagine, that Fire darted with ſuch a Rapidity, can from any aſſignable Cauſe deviate in Fact from a Right Line, in the Manner it appears to us. And this, if duely conſidered, may probably be found a plenary Solution.

* *See* Steph. Hales's *Statical Eſſays* Vol. 2d. p. 291.

Obſer-